

*Ref* that is derived from a fatty acid metal salt, the carbonaceous material being a material into or from which lithium is intercalated or deintercalated, and the amorphous metal compound being able to make an alloy with lithium and including one or more metals selected from the group consisting of Sn, Ag, Fe, Pd, Pb, Al, Si, In, Ni, Co, An and Cd.

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2. The negative active material of claim 1 where the amorphous metal compound is partially coated on a surface of the particle-agglomerated product.

3. The negative active material of claim 1 wherein the amorphous metal compound is included in the particle-agglomerated product.

4. The negative active material of claim 1 wherein an average diameter of the particle-agglomerated product is 6 to 40  $\mu\text{m}$ .

6. The negative active material of claim 1 wherein the metal compound includes one or both of  $\text{SnO}_2$  or  $\text{SnO}$ .

7. A negative electrode for a rechargeable lithium battery comprising the negative active material of claim 1.

8. A rechargeable lithium battery comprising the negative active material of claim 1.

9. A method of preparing a negative active material for a rechargeable lithium battery comprising the steps of:

adding a fatty acid metal salt to a carbonaceous material while the fatty acid metal salt and the carbonaceous material are agglomerated to produce an agglomerated precursor, wherein the fatty acid metal salt includes one or more metals selected from the group consisting of Sn, Ag, Fe, Pd, Pb, Al, Si, In, Ni, Co, Zn and Cd; and